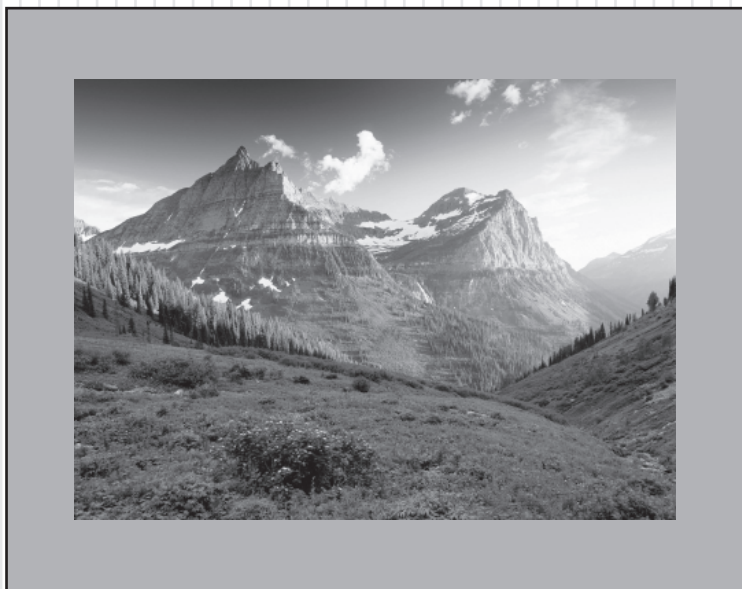


*Montana*  
*Comprehensive Assessment*  
*System (MontCAS, Phase 2)*  
*Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)*

COMMON CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ITEM RELEASE  
READING, GRADE 7

2007



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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# Reading

## Session 1

*Jacob Savino learns an important lesson one winter day. Read this story about Jacob, and then answer the question that follows.*

### Savino's Landscaping

*Carol Hammond*

Jacob had mowed lawns, raked leaves, and shoveled snow in his neighborhood since he was thirteen. He knew the landscape of the backyards that made up the area like he knew the back of his hand: Mrs. Delano's weed-infested gardens, Mr. Della Valle's shady, wooded back lot, and Mrs. Tucci's fearsome front steps, upon which even Jacob had slipped once or twice during a big winter storm.

Today was a cold January Saturday, and Jacob was bundled in a gray parka and waterproof gloves. On the left chest pocket of his parka, his mother had stitched a patch that read "Savino's Landscaping" in curly black letters. He had a price list, a business card, and a list of clients two pages long, but operating a business wasn't all Jacob thought it would be. He had shoveled Mrs. Tucci's front steps and long walkway and driveway for almost a year without ever seeing one cent from her. She never even said thank you.

Jacob stopped in front of Mrs. Tucci's big, dark house and took a deep breath as he looked at the layers of ice and snow that had fallen on the front yard during the night. He let the smaller shovel fall to his side and the larger shovel slide into position on the walkway. He began to scrape and lift the snow until he could see the brick underneath.

4 I don't know why I should be shoveling for her when she won't even pay me, Jacob thought as he worked his way up the walk. His father told him he didn't have a choice because if he didn't shovel for her, he'd have to hand over the money he *did* get from the rest of his customers that day. But why should Jacob be punished for doing what any good businessperson would do? Did his father think the corner store owner would let Jacob and his friends play video games without putting in quarters? What made his father think it was different for Savino's Landscaping?

As Jacob mulled this over, he heard what sounded like a kitten's cry. When he looked up, he realized it was Mrs. Tucci, who was now sitting, one leg out straight and the other bent at the knee, on the second-to-the-last stair of her front steps. Her eyes were milky blue and her skin a papery, soft cream.

6 "Mrs. Tucci," Jacob said, "Are you all right?" She nodded. "I'm a silly old duff, aren't I?" she said. "I was coming out to get the mail," she said, pointing a bony finger toward the mailbox at the end of her driveway.

"I'll get it for you," Jacob said and ran to the mailbox. He pulled the three letters from inside and made his way back to her on the step, slipping a little along the way.

"It's sure a slick one today," she said and started to pull herself up. She looked back over her shoulder as she started inside. "Aren't you going to come in for some cocoa?"

Jacob didn't reply. She'd never invited him in before and now she was acting as if they were old friends. "I have a lot of shoveling to do today, Mrs. Tucci," he said, but she didn't look away.

11 She made a shushing sound with her mouth and batted her hand at the air. "A day without laughter is a wasted day," she said. "Come on in. Have some hot cocoa. Take a rest."

Inside, she took his coat and hung it on a pair of hooks. He looked down at the tiny puddles of melted snow and muck from his boots, but she batted her hand at the air again and said, "Who cares."

In the kitchen she told him to sit at the table, and while she made cocoa she hummed a tune.

"Jacob," Mrs. Tucci said, "I've been quite sick for awhile. I haven't been able to get out much, but I must say that when I do go out, it is always such a nice surprise to see that you've shoveled

my walk.” She smiled and cocked her head.  
“You always do such a nice job.”

Jacob sat, cheeks hot with embarrassment, holding his cocoa in his lap. Just minutes before he had felt bitter about Mrs. Tucci not paying him, practically leaving ice on her walk to spite her. Now, she was telling him what a good job he did. He could barely look at her.

“I’ve been saving up to give you something,” she said and stood up to reach for a can. She **16** pulled off the lid and fished something out. Jacob could see it was money—a small, folded wad of dollar bills.

“No, no, Mrs. Tucci,” he said, standing up quickly. “I couldn’t take that.” He couldn’t believe what he was saying. By all rights he’d earned the money, and he could see it wasn’t even close to the amount owed to him. Still, the feeling inside

that made him gently push her hand away was so strong he couldn’t deny it. She’d probably been saving that money for months in a coffee can on her kitchen shelf, he thought, all while he was arguing with his father about how to run a business. His father had told him, over and over, that Jacob needed to see there was more to what he did for his neighbors than just making money.

“Oh but you must take it, Jacob. It’s yours,” said Mrs. Tucci in a faint voice.

“That’s all right,” he said, pushing his chair back in. “I don’t need it.” And as he watched her tuck the bills back into her coffee can, he knew he really meant it.

Back outside the sun was shining, and the snow and ice on Mrs. Tucci’s steps and walk were melting in the strong rays. Today would be a good day for Savino’s Landscaping. Jacob was sure of it.

22. Describe how Jacob changed from the beginning of the story to the end. Use specific details from the story to support your answer.

### Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response thoroughly describes how Jacob changed from the beginning of the story to the end. Response is developed and uses specific details from the story as support.
3	Response describes how Jacob changes from the beginning of the story to the end. Response includes details from the story as support, but lacks some development or specificity.
2	Response describes how Jacob changed from the beginning of the story to the end. Response is partial, uses weak support from the article, and may contain some misunderstandings or be unclear.
1	Response gives a minimal or vague description as to how Jacob changed from the beginning of the story to the end.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

#### Jacob at the beginning of the story . . . (and details to show why)

- Jacob was angry and resentful at Mrs. Tucci for having shoveled her walk for a year and never receiving payment (information in paragraph 4 supports this conclusion).
- Jacob felt that every business transaction should involve the exchange of money (paragraph 4 supports this conclusion).

#### . . . and at the end (and details to show why).

- Jacob was happy to shovel Mrs. Tucci's walk for free. He realized that she was ill and didn't have much money, but had good intentions (last seven paragraphs in the story support this conclusion).
- Jacob realized that there is more to running a business than receiving payment, true to his father's lesson (fourth paragraph from the end supports this conclusion).

In the story "Savino's Landscaping" Jacob, the main character changes drastically from the beginning to the ending. In the beginning Jacob is a young boy learning the meaning of work by doing yard work for the neighbors. Jacob is angry at a certain customer, Mrs. Tucci. Mrs. Tucci is a bitter old lady who doesn't pay Jacob for his hard work. One day, Jacob goes to shovel Mrs. Tucci's icy driveway and finds her hurt. She slipped down the stairs while trying to get her mail. Jacob helps her up and walks her inside. There is a surprise. Mrs. Tucci has been trying to save up for Jacob because she cannot afford to pay him regularly. Jacob is shocked and refuses the money. Jacob and Mrs. Tucci become friends. Jacob learns there is more to life than money. He also learns Mrs. Tucci is a kind lady who is trying to get the money. I think Jacob is a better person and will not be so harsh anymore.

In the story Savino's Landscaping, Jacob, a young man is doing his routine of shoveling, raking, and mowing lawns. Jacob stops at Mrs. Tucci's house to shovel her steps and brick walkway. As he was shoveling he wondered why he did Mrs. Tucci's yard, for she had never paid him. Jacob was being selfish. At that moment he looked up + saw her. She offered him cocoa. He agrees and goes inside her house. While drinking his cocoa, Mrs. Tucci explained she has been sick for a while and hasn't gone to work. She has not had enough money to pay him, but appreciates what he does for her. Jacob feels embarrassed and had about thinking bitter thoughts about her. She offers him money, but Jacob can not accept it. He thanks her and leaves. At the beginning of the story Jacob is selfish, but in the end he realizes that there is more to work than money.



Jacob was upset because Mrs. Tucci wouldn't pay him or even say thank you. He was complaining to his father and he told Jacob he still had to shovel her walk. When he is shoveling Mrs. Tucci slips and fall Jacob helps her and she invites him inside for cocoa. In the end Jacob learns that she was saving money for him the whole time. He didn't take the money because he knew he should just shovel her walk to be helpful.

In the beginning of the story he just wanted money and in the end he learned you can work to help people not always for money.



Jacob was arrogant at the beginning of the story. All he cared about was if Mrs. Tucci would pay him and when she didn't pay him. When he was shoveling snow she came out of the house to get the mail and invited Jacob inside. She told him she was ill and got a wad of dollar bills she was saving for him, out of the coffee can. He realized that she couldn't afford to pay him because she was a senior citizen so he refused to take the money. He now shovels Mrs. Tucci's sidewalk for free and doesn't mind that she can't pay him back.

Score Point 2

Sample 1

In The beginning All Jacob was worried about was getting money from Mrs. Tucci. Jacob soon realized why she wasn't paying him because she didn't have very much money. Jacob changed during the story by realizing money isn't the most important thing about work, it's having the responsibility to do the work.

Score Point 2

Sample 2

Jacob did not like Mrs. Tucci because she didn't pay him at the beginning, at the end he likes her more because he realizes that she can't afford to pay him but she is kind to him & he feels like he shouldn't take the money she does offer to him.

Score Point 1

Sample 1

A. Jacob was cold towards Mrs. Tucci at the beginning, but near the end he warms up to her.

Score Point 1

Sample 2

Jacob changes from being a little greedy to being thankful for what he has.

Score Point 0

Sample 1

He started to earn money for his  
business

Score Point 0

Sample 2

The story ended from Jacob shoveling to not shoveling and  
He was nice but now he is mean and snotty.

# Reading

## Session 3

Read this passage about how maps have changed over the years and then answer the question that follows.

### Here Be Dragons

Natalie M. Rosinsky

An old story from Norway says that the explorer Floki used ravens to find the distant land of Iceland. Floki sailed in an open boat, without a map. After many days at sea, Floki freed one bird at a time from the cage. The first bird flew back the way Floki had come. He knew *that* wasn't the way to Iceland. Finally, some of the birds flew off ahead of the ship. Floki followed them and found Iceland.

Most early mapmakers did not have such a “bird’s-eye view” of faraway places. How did they find out the location and shape of distant lands? They had to depend on what they could see for themselves as well as what explorers and travelers reported. Perhaps a traveler wrote that a distant city lay at the spot where a great river flowed into the sea. Sailors might tell of three islands off the coast or a wide bay near the cliffs. The early mapmakers recorded this information on their maps.

Unusual rocks, trees, and rivers became important landmarks on the earliest maps. To ancient Greek sailors, for example, mountains called the “Pillars of Hercules” marked the end of the known world. (Today we call this spot the Straits of Gibraltar.) Towns or lighthouses could also be landmarks.

Mapmakers judged the distance between places by the amount of time that travelers said they had spent on their journeys. They figured out how long it took to travel by horse or on foot. They multiplied the distance a ship could sail in a day by the number of days the trip took.

5 Early mapmakers used the sun and the stars to find the location of a faraway place. Was it in the east, where the sun rises? Or in the west where the sun sets? Sailors also knew a lot about the winds. In their stories of discovery, they might tell of winds that blew from the north, pushing the ships toward an island in the south. They wrote of winds from the east that brought them to a distant shore.

Explorers sailed farther and farther to trade for rare spices, discover riches, or claim land for

their own countries. And they brought back new information to mapmakers. People knew more about the world, but maps of distant places still contained mistakes. Judging distance was one problem.

For example, Columbus believed the world was much smaller than it is. He thought he had sailed all the way to Asia in 1492. He landed on a Caribbean island, carrying a letter to the “Great Khan” of China!

Mistakes in distance were just one kind of error on old maps. Some mapmakers were misled by travelers into showing a land bridge between southern Africa and southeastern Asia. Others drew the Americas as one continent. Some maps showed distant places as explorers hoped to find them—for example, North America with a northwest sea passage clear to China.

Travelers also exaggerated the creatures and people they had seen in distant places. Whales became “sea monsters,” while unusual lizards and snakes became “dragons.” Mapmakers decorated their maps with these fantastic creatures. Some mapmakers even believed that headless people or people with one gigantic foot used as an umbrella lived in faraway places!

Then, as now, people feared the unknown. Who or what was hiding beyond the known world? What monsters lay beyond the mountains or at the edge of the sea? Perhaps there were dragons! Early mapmakers often placed dragons and sea monsters at the edges of their maps, on unexplored land and seas.

11 In the 1700s, a new invention, the hot-air balloon, gave people their first true “bird’s-eye view” of a place. By 1858, a French photographer floated high in the sky with that recent invention, a camera. He took photographs of land miles away. These were combined into the first aerial map.

Today, with the help of airplanes and satellites, mapmakers can map every corner of the Earth. They have filled in the large, mysterious spaces once known only to “sea monsters” and “dragons.”



67. Summarize the main points of this passage. Use details from the passage to support your answer.

### Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough summary of the main points of the passage. Response includes relevant information from the passage.
3	Response provides a summary of the main points of the passage. Response lacks some relevant information from the passage or is not fully developed.
2	Response provides a minimal summary of the main points of the passage. Response uses limited support from the passage.
1	Response is vague or minimal. <b>OR</b> Response only provides a personal opinion with no text support.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

#### Student summaries may include:

- Mapmakers and explorers used creative ways to figure out where land was, such as Floki's birds.
- Mapmakers were forced to rely on the stories of sailors and explorers to draw their maps.
- Mapmakers also used nature to help them make their maps.
- Early maps were flawed.
- Some explorers might exaggerate.
- Mapmakers placed dragons on maps in unexplored areas.
- In the 1700s, the hot air balloon changed the way maps were made.
- Now maps are very accurate.

Mapmaking have been done since Greek times. Most mapmakers judged distance by the amount of time it took to get there. They used the sun and the stars to find locations. Explorers traveled long distances to trade or discover things. Back then judging distance was a problem. There were other flaws such as some mapmakers misled travelers, maps showing the Americas as one continent and also explorers showed places as they wanted to see them. Travelers tended to exaggerate creatures from faraway places such as weird lizards became "dragons" and whales "sea creatures." People feared the unknown, what if there were dragons or sea creatures? The hot air balloon came into effect. People could finally get a "bird's-eye-view" of faraway places. One day someone took a camera up there to take pictures. Now we have satellites and airplanes do the work for us accurately.

This passage's main points are that early map makers weren't very accurate. Most mapmakers used specific spots or things to use as landmarks; for example they called the mountains that were called the end of the <sup>known</sup> world, - the "Pillars of Hercules." These landmarks could also be towns, rivers, lighthouses, unusual rocks, and unusual trees. Another way they weren't accurate was distance between places, they just estimated by seeing how long it took by foot and multiplied the distance a ship could sail in a day by the number of days the trip took. The early map makers also used the sun and stars to determine where they were. Early Mapmakers made a lot of mistakes (like the land bridge from Africa to Asia) they also thought the whales were "sea monsters" and lizards were digging. When new technology came they could travel by air and see things clearer so the <sup>mapmakers</sup> would have more accurate maps.

The main points of the passage is that the maps then weren't as accurate as the modern maps today. Mostly because explorers didn't have a 'birds-eye view' of faraway places, so they couldn't see the size or shape of different lands. Mapmakers also judged the distance between places, but they could have been off track a lot. An example of the mapmaker being off track is like when Columbus thought that he was in Asia but he was really only on the Caribbean island. The biggest reason for the maps being so bad is because travelers and explorers exaggerated a lot when they found new land. Our maps today are a lot better because we have higher technology such as airplanes and satellites, to backup our mistakes.

### Score Point 3

#### Sample 2

This passage is an old story from Norway that tells about mapmaking in the past. Back then, mapmakers did not know what land looked like from beyond what they could see. Instead they would draw monsters and dragons where they did not know what it looked like. They would tell the distance by the amount of time travelers they had spent on their journeys. In the 1700s the hot-air balloon was invented and gave people a chance to get a bird's-eye view. Today with using airplanes and satellites we can see for miles and miles and make accurate maps.

Score Point 2

Sample 1

a long time ago in the early days map-makers were incorrect because they couldn't get a birds eye view on the far off land, so they used birds to give them their direction. there was also sea monsters that were ~~known~~ as unknown creatures. In 1858 the invented a hot air blon so they can get a birds eye view on the land.

Score Point 2

Sample 2

Early mapmakers used the sun and the stars to find the location of a faraway place and mapmakers thought that whales became "sea monsters" while unusual lizards and snakes became "dragons." They also put "sea monsters" and dragons on the edges of maps. Columbus thought that the world was small.



Score Point 1

Sample 1

Years ago people used inaccurate maps. They were worried about dragons and sea monsters.

Score Point 1

Sample 2

The main points from this passage are that dragons and sea monsters don't exist, and that the earth is larger than what early map makers thought it to be.

Score Point 0

Sample 1

the main points were about dragons in the story. that was the main points.

Score Point 0

Sample 2

it swallows all of the rock

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